

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01

SSM-03 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /116 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, DM

SUBJ: AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO)

PRESIDIUM MEETS IN COTONOU

REF: COTONOU 0540 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S
SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION AAPSO PRESIDIUM MET IN COTONOU MARCH
26-28. FINAL DECLARATION, ESSENTIALLY A BROADSIDE AGAINST WEST,
IS TO DATE STRONGEST DENUNCIATION ISSUED IN BENIN CITING U.S. BY
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NAME. END SUMMARY.

1. AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO) HELD ITS
FIFTH "PRESIDIUM" MEETING MARCH 26-MARCH 28 IN COTONOU. ACCORDING
TO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN
(GPRB) PRESS REPORTS, OVER FIFTY DELEGATIONS FROM THIRD WORLD,
COMMUNIST BLOC NATIONS, AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ATTENDED,

INCLUDING PLO, ANC, ZAPU, AND SWAPO. MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN BY PRESIDUM WERE TO PRESENT PRESIDENT KEREKOU WITH THE "GOLD MEDAL OF SOLIDARITY" AND TO ISSUE SCATHING DENUNCIATION OF THE WEST IN THE FORM OF A "GENERAL DECLARATION". MAJOR POINTS OF DECLARATION FOLLOW:

2. AFTER PLACING THE ORGANIZATION'S "RAISON D'ETRE" WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (PARALLELS WERE DRAWN TO AUGUST 1976 COLOMBO SUMMIT AND MARCH 1977 CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT), DECLARATION ATTACKED USG FOR OPPOSING ADMISSION OF ANGOLA AND VIETNAM TO U.N. REGARDING U.S. ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST, DECLARATION STATED: "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND WORLD ZIONISM HAVE NOT RENOUNCED THEIR POLICY AND THEIR PLOTS OF AGRESSION AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS AND AGAINST THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND ITS LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS". REFERENCE WAS MADE TO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SUPPLIED BY "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" TO AID ISRAEL TO EXPAND "ITS CAPACITY FOR AGGRESSION". DECLARATION CONTINUED WITH STATEMENT THAT "FIRST AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT UNDERLINED THE BONDS UNITING IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM, AND RACISM CONSTITUTED BY THE TEL AVIV-PRETORIA-WASHINGTON AXIS SUPPORTED BY THE IMPERIALIST NATIONS, NOTABLY WEST GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, AND FRANCE." U.S. ALSO CRITICIZED FOR ITS "IMPERIALIST MANEUVERS" IN SPANISH SAHARA. "AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS" CONDEMNED FOR PERPETRATING "TWO KOREAS PLOT." DECLARATION DEMANDED IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA AND DISMANTLING OF ALL MILITARY BASES. FINAL REFERENCE TO U.S. WAS INVITATION TO "UNITED STATES TO RESPECT ITS COMMITMENTS CONCERNING REPARATIONS FOR WAR DAMAGE IN VIETNAM".

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3. OTHER MAJOR POINTS WERE:

A) DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR THEIR POLICY IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA; B) EXCORIATION OF APARTHEID AND "BANTUSTAN" POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA; C) A DEMAND THAT FRANCE RESPECT JUNE 27 INDEPENDENCE DATE IN DJIBOUTI AND WITHDRAW ALL TROOPS; D) CONGRATULATIONS TO "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" IN ETHIOPIA FOR THEIR VICTORY OVER FEUDALISM AND IMPERIALISM; E) CONDEMNATION OF MERCENARIES AND A DEMAND FOR U.N. CONVENTION TO "PROHIBIT THE RESORT TO MERCENARIES BY THE IMPERIALIST FORCES"; F) RECOGNITION THE GRAVITY OF THE CRISIS IN LEBANON AND CONDEMNATION OF THE "LEBANESE FASCISTS", "ISRAELI INTERVENTION", AND THE ASSASSINATION OF KAMAL JUMBLATT; G) DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR PLO, FOR ISRAELI RETREAT FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, L) EXPRESSION OF GRIEF AT THE ASSASSINATION OF MARIEN N'GOUABI, JASON MOYO, AND KAMAL JUMBLATT;

4. LESS ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO FOLLOWING POINTS: A) SUPPORT FOR POPULAR FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF OMAN; B) SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT IN "THEIR STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY; C) DENUNCIATION OF IRAN FOR ITS "EXPANSIONIST POLICY IN THE ARABIAN GULF" AND FOR "REPEATED AGGRESSION" AGAINST DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YEMEN; D) DEMAND FOR THE PROTECTION OF "DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES" IN ARAB NATIONS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; E) SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS AND "INDEPENDENT, NON- ALIGNED" CYPRUS; F) SUPPORT FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND CONDEMNATION OF "WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS" FOR THEIR "COLONIALIST ATTITUDES" IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE; G) RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF "DECOLONIZATION" OF MASS MEDIA IN THE "ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE."

5. DECLARATION ALSO CONTAINED TWO EXAMPLES OF BIZARRE RADICAL-MILITANT DOUBLE-THINK. IN CONDEMNING "CERTAIN AFRICAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIAN NATIONS "FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF "NATIONALIST AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES", NIESIDIUM ISSUED ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE "ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY, THE SAFEGUARD OF POLITICAL LIBERTIES, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AND THE FREEDOM OF ORGANIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES ON THE TWO CONTINENTS." DECLARATION ENDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT AAPSO HAS AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE STRUGGLE.. "IN FAVOR OF LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE, DIGNITY AND JUSTICE".

6. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND FROM A THIRD WORLD DIPLOMAT THAT CONFERENCE ARRANGED BY SOVIETS AT BENIN'S REQUEST PRIMARILY AS MEANS FOR FOCUSING THIRD WORLD ATTENTION ON JANUARY 16 MERCENARY ATTACK, APPARENTLY DELEGATIONS PASSED THROUGH MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO COTONOU. CONSEQUENTLY, MUCH EFFORT EXPENDED IN DRAFTING A TWELVE POINT DOCUMENT CONDEMNING THE "COWARDLY" ATTACK ON BENIN. GENERAL DECLARATION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESTATEMENT OF WELL-KNOWN RADICAL THIRD-WORLD POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS.

7. CONFERENCE WAS PLAYED OUT IN THE NOW-TYPICAL ATMOSPHERE OF GPRB PSUEDO-EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. ON EVENING OF MARCH 23, GUESTS IN THE THREE NATIONAL TOURIST HOTELS WERE EVICTED FROM THEIR ROOMS TO MAKE ROOM FOR DELEGATES. AT TIME, KEREKOU WAS TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE, STREETS ON PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE ROUTE WERE SEALED OFF BY BENINESE SOLDIERS NERVOUSLY BRANDISHING THEIR AK-47'S. FRENCH, W. GERMAN AND U.S. RESIDENT MISSIONS DID NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH CHIEFS OF MISSIONS WERE TWICE CONVOKED WITH THE USUAL TWO TO THREE HOURS NOTICE.

8. ALTHOUGH GPRB IS NOT DECLARATION'S SOLE AUTHOR, BENINESE "REVOLUTIONARIES" FOUND A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR TAKING A SLAP AT WEST, PARTICULARLY U.S., COMING ON THE HEELS OF PRINTED

CONDEMNATION OF FRANCE FOR ITS ALLEGED ROLE IN JANUARY 16
ATTACK ON COTONOU, (REFTEL) AAPSO CONFERENCE HAD DOUBLE PURPOSE;
1) PUBLICITY STUNT FOR KEREKOU DESIGNED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION,
AND 2) GPRB SELF-PERCEPTION OF FURTHER PRESTIGE IN THE RANKS
OF "THIRD WORLD MILITANCY" FOR HOSTING A CONFERENCE WITH SUCH
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AN ABRASIVE MESSAGE FOR THE WEST. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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